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March 12, 2010

**HB 5470 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION AND CAMPAIGN TREASURERS**

Section 2 of the bill – Oppose adding Section 20 to 9-7b

Good morning Chairman Spallone, Chairman Slossberg and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Bill Jenkins and I am here to talk about HB 5470 An Act Concerning the State Elections Enforcement Commission and campaign treasurers. Presently, I am a treasurer for a political committee organized by two or more individuals and I am the treasurer for State Representative Mike Alberts' 2010 candidate committee. I have been serving as a treasurer for 14 years for quite a number of campaigns and political committees. I am a member of the Connecticut Republican State Central Committee and I serve as the Secretary of that committee. I am also the Republican Registrar of Voters in Chaplin.

This bill would add a requirement to 9-7b requiring the State Elections Enforcement Commission to respond in writing within ten days to all telephonic questions from campaign treasurers.

As I mentioned earlier, I've been a campaign treasurer for 14 years and on the rare occasions I've had to contact the Commission with a question, I've found them to be responsive and helpful. Because of my many years of experience as a treasurer, my questions to the Commission at this point are many times very complex and require a considerable amount of time for them to research, certainly more than ten business days and there's nothing wrong with that.

The statutory guidelines that provide the Commission is "mission" are laid out in 9-7b which includes the words "duties and powers" in the title of that statute. A review of those duties and powers does not include providing what is essentially free legal advice to campaign treasurers and candidates nor does 9-7b require the Commission to provide training or workshops. For years, the Commission has been going far above and beyond the call of duty by making itself available to assist campaign treasurers and candidates by not only answering questions we may have, they also provide regular workshops and training for treasurers and candidates and have been doing this for as long as I can remember.

The answers to almost all of the questions that treasurers and candidates have are easily answered if the treasurers or the candidates had bothered even reading the statutes in the first place. Some people find the statutes complicated and/or confusing however the

Commission has published a wide variety of guidebooks and reference material over the years (again not a required duty in 9-7b) that answer almost all simple questions that treasurers may have. Many times the treasurers don't bother to review these documents either before they pick up the phone and call the Commission and ask for advice. I admit, I've been guilty of doing exactly this once or twice in the past this because I was simply too lazy to look up the answer myself.

To summarize, the Commission is already exceeding expectations with respect to its statutory duties as they relate to assisting and educating campaign treasurers and I don't think they should be required to provide written answers to telephonic questions to us, especially within ten days. I don't know of any other situation in the entire state where a regulatory agency is required to respond to telephonic question from those they regulate within ten business days. I feel this is an inappropriate proposal.

If this legislation were to pass, if I were the Commission, I would send a form letter to every treasurer who called in with a question that would say "We've received your inquiry and we are in the process of reviewing it and will provide you with a response when we complete our research." The Commission would be meeting the requirement of this new law and the treasurer won't get their free legal advice within ten days anyway therefore, I don't feel this legislation will accomplish its intended goal or accomplish anything at all for that matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William L. Jenkins', written in a cursive style.

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